


The Point

Issue No. 2

Week of Feb. 16, 2000

Hack attacks!



Strike up
the band
page 7

No snow job
on campus
page 5

Wrestling
with football
page 12

Homing in on hackers

by Erick Carpenter
photos by Jeff Bartlett

Some of the World Wide Web's largest commerce-based sites came under siege recently by electronic attacks. Such notable Web sites as Yahoo, eBay, CNN, Amazon and E*Trade (on the day of its initial product offering, no less) were shut down for as long as eight hours in the attacks. So far the FBI has only been able to detain the author of the software used in the attack.

The attacks, called "denial of service" attacks, were launched over a three-day period starting Jan. 7. Denial of service attacks are achieved by sending a flood of requests to the Web server over a short amount of time. The result is that servers become so clogged with requests that they are unable to process actual requests for information. The programs designed to create denial of service attacks are done so to provide businesses the ability to protect against such attacks. During the peak of the attack Yahoo was transmitting more than a gigabit of data per second, enough data to potentially fill an average personal computer's hard drive in under half a minute.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the FBI is not without clues. Fifty computers in a marine-biology research lab at the University of California at Santa Barbara were found to have denial of service-attacks software installed and were transmitting requests to Yahoo during the time of the attack. Systems at University of California at Los Angeles were also recruited from remote locations for the attack. Computers which can be used remotely for such incidents are commonly referred to as "zombie" computers.

Security experts are reluctant to refer to the perpetrator as a "hacker," however. The tools used in the attack are widely available and take little to no skill to operate. The programs used in the attack were programmed and made available for download by a German ex-hacker for use in testing networks' ability to stave off denial-of-service attacks. At a recent news conference Ron Dick of the National Infrastructure Protection Center said, "A 15-year-old kid could launch these attacks. It doesn't take a great deal of sophistication to do."

Are computer labs at FSC at risk of being used as "zombie" computers in future denial of service attacks? Joe Turner, the assistant director of Management Information Systems, said in a recent interview that systems inside the FSC net-



FSC senior Erick Carpenter goes online to learn about potential computer problems.

work are safe from being harnessed for use in a denial of service attack. Software commonly referred to as "firewalls" are currently in place to keep potential attacks on other sites from happening. All traffic into and out of FSC is monitored by not only by the MIS department, but by FSC's Internet Service Provider as well, Turner said.

However, both FSC's main website and student websites housed on Falcon are at risk of attack, Turner said, even with the precautions in place. According to Turner, "They will always be one step ahead."

TRIVIA TIME

What reknown spy novelist also wrote the children's book, "Chitty-Chitty Bang Bang?"

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
William Randolph Hearst

Bonus: RKO 281

Flexibility, Power, Endurance,
Coordination and Balance, Self
Assurance, Humility, Inner
Peace...

All of these can be yours
by joining the **Karate
Club**, soon to be called
the **Martial Arts Club**

The club meets on Mondays
and Wednesdays in the
McKay School Cafeteria at
7:00 p.m.

**ALL FSC STUDENTS
ARE WELCOME!!!**

Students jump on bandwagon

by Samantha Baker

Trumpets, and flutes, and drums oh my! Walk into Weston Auditorium on a Wednesday night and one will hear these instruments, as well as the others that make up the FSC Concert Band. Under the direction of Dennis Wrenn, the band is a small ensemble of students, from freshman to seniors, and even alumni.

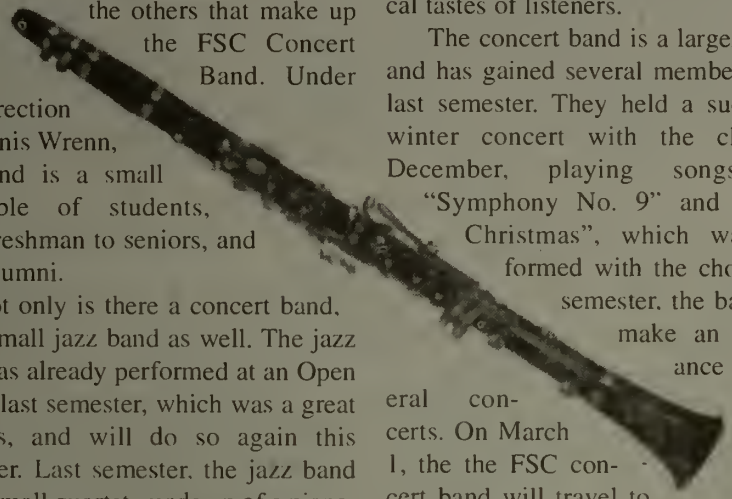
Not only is there a concert band, but a small jazz band as well. The jazz band has already performed at an Open House last semester, which was a great success, and will do so again this semester. Last semester, the jazz band was a small quartet, made up of a piano, drums, guitar, and saxophone. This semester the band has expanded, introducing several other instruments.

The band and jazz band are open to anybody who wants to play. There is a wide range of experience among members, so any level of expertise is accepted.

In jazz band, the main concern isn't playing the music exactly right, but to learn more about jazz through improvisation, soloing, which is greatly encouraged, and rephrasing of the music that is being played. Because the jazz band is a small group, it is almost like having a private lesson in how to play jazz music. Instead of studying

improvisational techniques and other elements of jazz, band members must listen to each other in order to keep in time with the other and to stay in tune. There is also a wide range of music that is played, to appeal to the varied musical tastes of listeners.

The concert band is a larger group, and has gained several members since last semester. They held a successful winter concert with the choir in December, playing songs like "Symphony No. 9" and "White Christmas", which was performed with the choir. This semester, the band will make an appearance at several concerts. On March 1, the the FSC concert band will travel to Salem State College to perform in a joint concert with their band. They will also play at the Honors Convocation on April 13, and bring the school year to an end with the Spring Concert on May 3. Hopefully, these performances will garner more recognition for Fitchburg State's talented musicians.



What the heck is S.M.P.T.E.?!?!?!?

The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers is a national organization designed to help technicians get in touch with each other to discuss the latest equipment, techniques and problems that they may have. It is a great way to make connections in the industry and to help land a job after graduation.

Currently there are only 11 student chapters of SMPTE in existence and Fitchburg State College has one of them. This is a wonderful chance for students to attend the monthly meetings in Boston and get in touch with professional and learn about advancements in the business.

All communications students are encouraged to attend the meetings at FSC by calling

Christine McKeen at 1-978-503-5281

Behavioral Sciences majors face March deadline for preregistration

Students in Behavioral Sciences majors (Criminal Justice, Human Services, Psychology, Sociology) who wish to complete direct service internships as part of their programs must qualify by taking Theory, Issues & Practice in Human Services, Interviewing Techniques, and Methods of Case Reporting & Analysis, which are taken in sequence. Human Services majors must also take Social Group Work in addition to these courses.

For those who wish to take Interviewing Techniques, Social Group Work and/or Methods of Case Reporting and Analysis during Fall 2000, preregistration is mandatory. Failure to pre-register will likely result in a denial of entrance into required

courses in the proper sequence. These courses fill quickly, so interested students must sign up on time. Pre-registration forms will be dated when received and students will be assigned to classes in the order in which they pre-register. DON'T MISS OUT.

To pre-register, please go to the student work area of Percival 9 (the Field Placement Office), complete the appropriate form(s), and leave them in the box. In order to receive admission slip(s) in time to register for courses, preregistration must be completed by March 27. Admission slips will be sent by campus mail, so campus mailbox numbers should be included on the pre-registration form.

Volleyball Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 1st 4:30 p.m
in the S.O.C. office.

We will be discussing

- Open Gym Volleyball Nights
- Volleyball Marathon
- Election of Officers

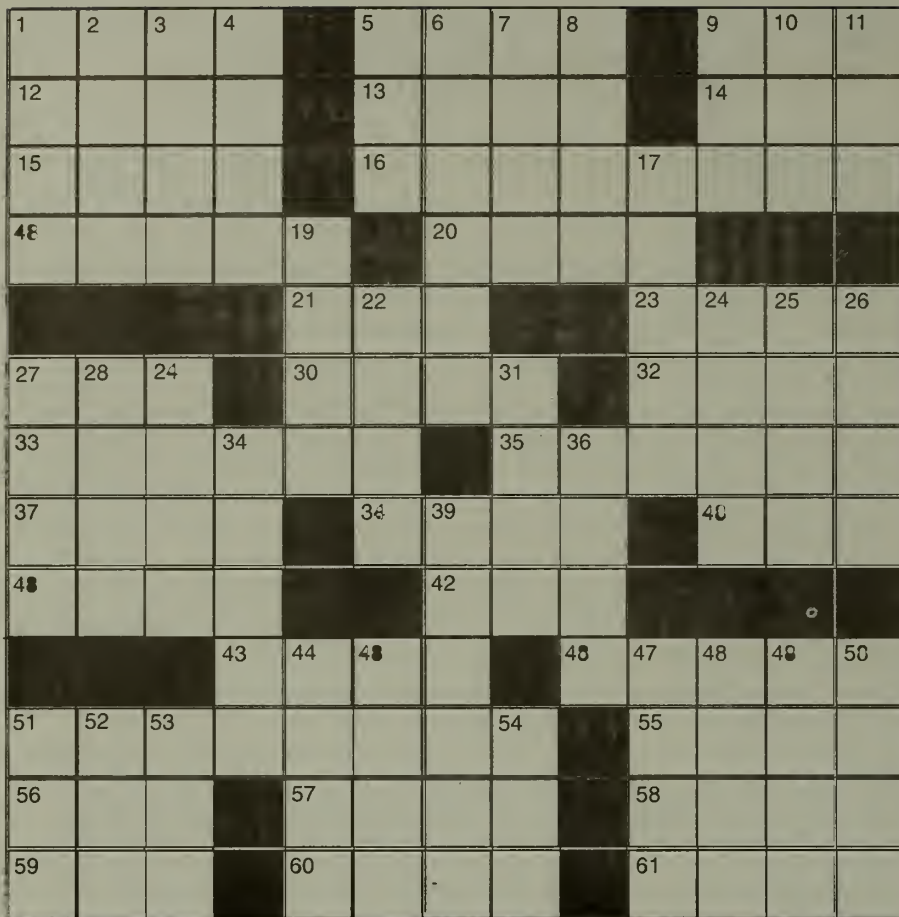
YOU'VE EARNED IT
 only **\$169** for any siladium ring

GUARANTEED GRADUATION DELIVERY!

ARTCARVED

- SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP
- FAST DELIVERY
- LIFETIME WARRANTY

Two Days Only!



ACROSS

- 1. Golden _____ (retiree)
- 5. Spelndor
- 9. Resistance unit
- 12. Liquid rock
- 13. La Scala solo
- 14. Teensy
- 15. Extraordinary thing
- 16. Hardworking
- 18. White heron
- 20. Gumbo
- 21. Conger or moray
- 23. Reach
- 27. Station break airings
- 30. Fencer's weapon
- 32. Water duct
- 33. Beachwear
- 35. Learn well
- 37. Placed
- 38. Fashionable
- 40. Supplement, with "to"
- 41. Otherwise

DOWN

- 1. Sunburn remedy
- 2. Band
- 3. Always
- 4. Uncommon
- 5. Living quarters
- 6. Baltimore player
- 7. _____ shake
- 8. Set of two
- 9. Be obliged to
- 10. Female chicken
- 11. FAced
- 17. Pants

ACROSS

- 19. Adolescent, for short
- 22. Heroic story
- 24. Middle Eastern bread
- 25. Qualified
- 28. Watch part
- 29. Winter sliders
- 31. Emanate
- 34. Standard of excellence
- 36. High cards
- 39. Derby maker
- 44. Greek consonant
- 45. Neutral color
- 47. Londoner's farewell
- 48. Ferrous metal
- 49. Insufficiency
- 50. Wanders aimlessly
- 51. Senate vote
- 52. "____ of the needle"
- 53. Comprehend
- 54. Aegean or Black

Solution on page 5

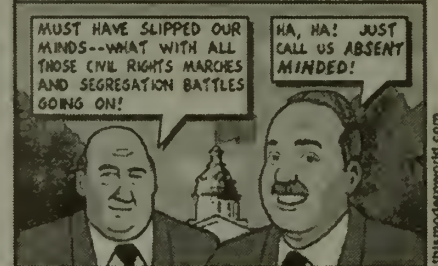
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

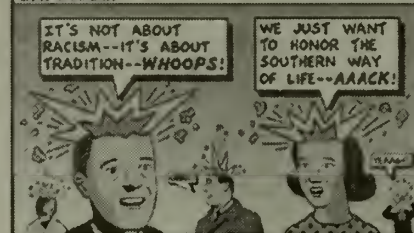
THE THING THAT STRIKES A VISITOR TO THE SOUTH IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS STILL DEFINED BY THE CIVIL WAR...MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS DOT THE LANDSCAPE, AND EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK THERE ARE EXPRESSIONS OF SOUTHERN PRIDE ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIONS OF THE CONFEDERATE FLAG...



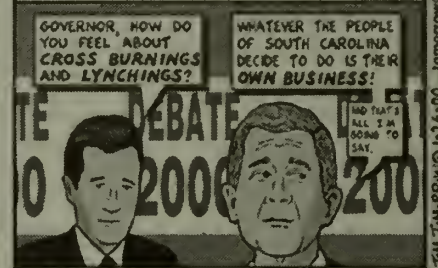
IN SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT FLAG WAS RAISED ABOVE THE STATE CAPITAL IN 1962, AS A SUPPOSEDLY TEMPORARY COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CIVIL WAR...THOUGH SOMEHOW THEY FORGOT TO EVER TAKE IT DOWN...



NOW, MANY WHO SUPPORT THE FLAG'S CONTINUED DISPLAY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE TO CELEBRATE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THEIR HERITAGE WHILE OVERLOOKING OTHERS--THOUGH YOU'D THINK THE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE OF THE EFFORT WOULD MAKE THEIR HEADS EXPLODE...



BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE STARS AND BARS SYMBOLIZE A SHAMEFUL PAST AS SURELY AS THE GERMAN SWASTIKA...THOUGH OF COURSE NOT EVERYONE IS WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS...



The Point

Editor-in-Chief
AnneMarie Donahue
Managing Editor
James Sposato
Faculty Adviser
Doris Schmidt

News Editor
Matt Rivard

Sports Editor
Justin Crawford

Opinion Editor
Vacant

Features Editor
Samantha Baker

A&E Editor
Maria Brogna

Copy Editors
Adrienne Lucier
Rebecca Morse
Advertising Manager
Vacant

Business Manager
Christine McKeen
Production Manager
AnneMarie Donahue

Website Managers
Sarah Gwozdz
Erick Carpenter

Writers

Randy Benders
Sarah Barss

Victor Centeio
Jen Brenner

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

The Point is the student news source of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to the Point becomes the property of the Point.

Y2K wrap-up

by Anthony Sciabarrasi

One full month after the ball dropped, it is safe to say that the millennium hangover is history. Although we still receive daily reminders, from some numerically correct purists, that the next century will really begin on January 1, 2001, I think these people, should give it up.

How appropriate it seems that the end of our technologically advanced millennium could be haunted by simply a change of the date; hysteria which included hordes who went stampeding to BJ's Wholesale Club for batteries, candles and non-perishable milk.

So what would cause this cataclysm of near-Biblical proportions to occur? Fireballs from heaven? Forty days of rain? The mysterious return of NASA's Mars probes? No, it was just a number, zero.

Now this non-event is being investigated by the richest lawyers of Congress, the Justice Department and Disney World, who all insist this whole non-thing was a conspiracy.

I hate to say I told you so, but here goes: from the very beginning I thought that it was utterly absurd that all the computers in the world, except those at the Pentagon, which received hundreds of billions of dollars worth of upgrades, would think ("think" being a relative term) that the year was now 1900.

We were then told we would not exist. Except for Whitey Bulger and

some wiseguys on the Witness Protection Program, this would kind of suck. Where would we be, credit card heaven? I find it extremely hard to swallow that the powers that be, the Psychic Hot Line, or even Bill Gates fell for this.

But fall we did, and personally I am glad nothing much happened. I watched CNN all day just to see how Tonga, Auckland and France got by, and all went spectacularly.

Yawn. I could have sworn the Eiffel Tower was going to go up into space. Good job, France! That's only because Y2K compliant computers launched all the fireworks. Places without computers, electricity or toilet paper did not even realize the trouble they could have been in.

Except for our beloved Pentagon of course, who had the guts to inform the world on January 4 that all of our spy satellites were busy spying, but the spy computer named HAL refused to decipher what they were spying on. It's a good thing the Soviet Union was busy drinking because I'm sure Boris Yeltsen could have won the Cold War at midnight and then retired. As a taxpayer I believe that our national security should come before any dismal fireworks array.

I really hate to go on and on, but I guess it's just a kind of Seinfeldian observation. You get the point. But all's well here in USAtopia and we have eight thousand years or so to plan for the next zero. I can't wait.

Sigma Tau Delta makes plans for Spring

by Jen Majeran

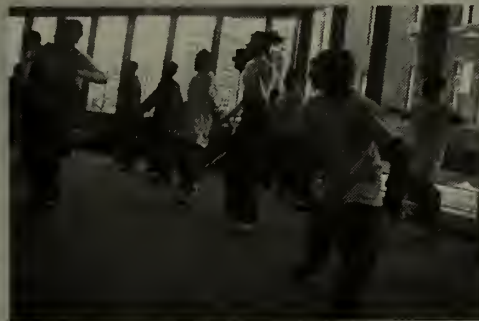
"To further culture, advance the study of language and literature, develop skills in writing, and foster a spirit of fellowship." This is the mission statement of Sigma Tau Delta, which is not a sorority, but the International English Honors Society right here on campus. Simply put, the aim of Sigma is for English students to come together as a community and share in their love of literature and writing. "It is a chance to commune with other English geeks," said Alexa Reed, former secretary of the Honors Society Sigma Tau Delta was introduced to FSC in the spring of 1998 by Dr. Donnelle Ruwe of the English department. Students caught on fast to what Sigma could offer: Scholarships, Internships, conventions, and the chance to be published in the Sigma publication named The Rectangle. "It's important for students to be involved in something on a larger scale with other students. Also, for the scholarships and the chance to be published," explained Dr. Ruwe on why she brought Sigma Tau Delta to FSC. According to Dr. Ruwe, some members have applied recently for scholarships, but no success stories have come in just yet. To join Sigma, one needs to be either an English major or minor. Also, a grade point average of 3.0 is needed, and \$26. With that, members receive

the Sigma Tau Delta pin, a certificate of membership, and access to all the opportunities Sigma offers.

In the fall of 1999 Sigma came together and held a dirty book sale, selling books donated not only from the members, but from the different departments here on campus. Books were sold from 50 cents to one dollar. The group earned about \$150 allowing Sigma to raise money for future plans and projects. Some has been used to make fliers for freshman orientation. Last semester, Sigma paid special attention to the plight of juniors and seniors planning to graduate. Meetings were held to help students put together their portfolios, plan for the GRE's and discuss graduate schools. A workshop was held specifically for portfolio work. Members, and non-members, came together to share papers and read sample introductions to understand the criteria for the portfolio. "I found it to be extremely helpful in starting the process of putting my portfolio together. I'm not as stressed about it as I used to be," said Robin Wedlock of the portfolio workshop.

This semester, Sigma plans to continue helping students prepare for graduation by holding meetings directed towards studying for the GRE'S, and planning for grad school. Sigma plans to have their first meeting of the semester on Thursday, February 17 at 3:30 in the M&M lounge.

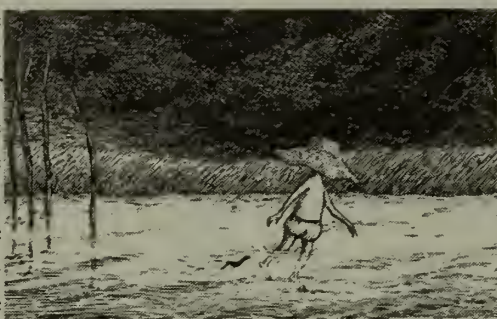
FSC feels the beat!



M&M Loungers got a treat Tuesday, Feb. 22 when a dance troupe performed some hip hop music.

GOREY TALES

Somewhere along the storm-tossed coast of Cape Cod there is a ramshackle old farmhouse. Any soul brave enough to venture inside would find sandpaper drawings



bizarre methods. The blasphemous comedy arises from the blandness of the telling. Such efforts are only to be expected from a man who read Dracula by age 5 and

Frankenstein by age 7. walls which play host to long tendrils of poison ivy, a horde of cats, an assortment of tiny teddy bears and a collection of photographs of dead children from crimes scenes.

Amid this baroque jumble, they would also find a 75 year-old man, bald and bearded, whose wickedly puckish eyes belie the taciturn face into which they are set. His name is Edward Gorey.

Gorey, along with his contemporary Charles Addams (creator of "The Addams Family"), combined the macabre horror of Poe with sophisticated world-weariness of Cole Porter. However, where Addams created comics in the classical sense, Gorey's works defy description. His little chapbooks are not quite illustrations and not quite prose, but fall neatly between into the same shadowy category as children's literature.

This is not to say that his books, although filled with nonsense that would make Lewis Carroll envious, are by any means intended for children. His disturbing classic "The Loathsome Couple" is based on a true story of a British couple who murdered several children over the course of years only to be found out when they dropped photographs of their misdeeds on a crowded bus.

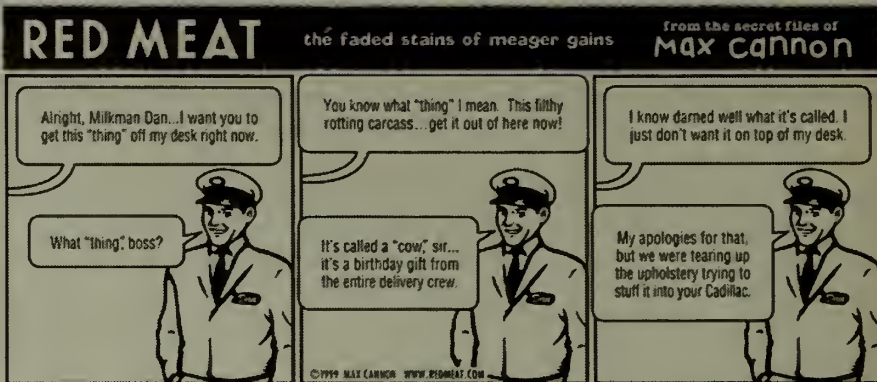
For all of these themes though, Gorey's tiny books work as humor, black and thick as treacle, but humor nonetheless. In his "Gashlycrumb Tinies", an alphabet primer for the Goth set, 26 children are done away with in a variety of

Frankenstein by age 7.

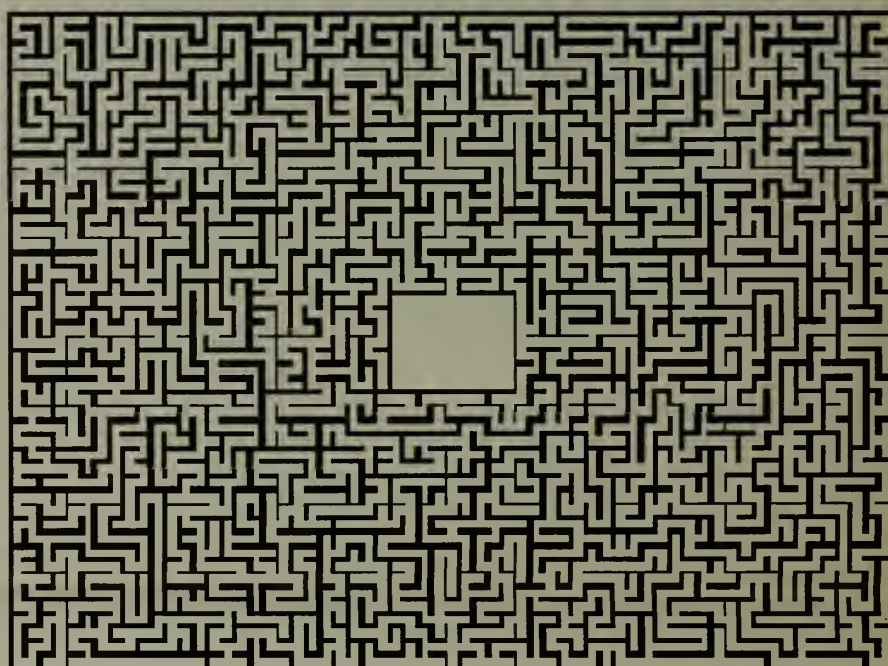
Edward Gorey was born in Chicago in 1925 and decided to follow his grandmother's footsteps into the world of illustration. There were obstacles of course; his only formal art training had been a single semester at the Chicago Art Institute and he was establishing himself as an artist during the era of Abstract Expressionism. In 1950's the New York art world was held sway by the likes of Pollack. By comparison, Gorey's illustrations were effete tiny things. It was this environment which led him to self publish. Such early works, put out by his Fantod Press, can fetch nearly \$1000 in respectable auction houses.

Forty years and as many books later, Gorey holds a subtle but enduring influence in all media. He has designed sets for stage versions of "Dracula" and "Sherlock Holmes", there is talk of an animated television series, he has influenced such graphic novels as Alan Moore's "Swamp Thing" and Neil Gaiman's "The Sandman" and even pseudo-goth musician, Trent Reznor, modeled his "The Perfect Drug" video after Gorey's works.

In his own field, long-time publishers Harcourt Brace are reissuing many of his works, from his first ("The Unstrung Harp") to his most Dada-esque, ("The Willowdale Handcart") as well as the collections "Amphigorey", "Amphigorey Too" and "Amphigorey Also". All are disturbingly funny and highly recommended.



WORK YOUR WAY FROM THE BOTTOM ENTRANCE TO THE CENTER



A	G	E	R		P	O	M	P		O	H	M		
L	A	V	A		A	R	I	A		W	E	E		
O	N	E	R		D	I	L	I	G	E	N	T		
E	G	R	E	T		O	K	R	A					
					E	E	L			S	R	A	N	
A	D	S			E	P	E	E		P	I	P	E	
B	I	K	I	N	I			M	A	S	T	E	R	
L	A	I	D		C	H	I	C		A	D	D		
E	L	S	E			A	T	E						
					A	B	E	T		S	T	I	N	G
N	E	G	L	E	C	T	S			A	R	E	A	
A	Y	E			T	R	E	E		T	O	E	D	
Y	E	T			A	U	R	A		A	N	D	S	

~~e~~ Road Trip.

*Turn this break into a real trip. with over 700 airlines,
in excess of 45,000 hotels, and more than 50 rental car companies,
it's easy to find incredible deal even on a student's budget.*



Professor's really going places

by Joanna Jackson

On most weekdays, Andrea Wallen can be found in her usual places: her office on the third floor of Thompson Hall or one of the many classrooms there. Professor Wallen teaches at Fitchburg State College and chairs the Graduate Studies program. She is one of many smartly dressed professionals who prepare students to meet the challenges of a career in nursing. But, for one weekend a month, and two weeks in the summer, she dons a different uniform and takes on a very different role. In place of dresses and briefcase, Lieutenant Colonel Wallen, a nurse in the United States Army Reserves, wears camouflage and a stethoscope.

Last September she had the opportunity to take part in a humanitarian aid mission to Ecuador as part of her two-week training. "Our unit [the 309th Combat Support Hospital, based at Hanscom Air Force Base] was asked if we would send personnel down to Ecuador for a humanitarian mission," Professor Wallen explained.

When mobilized, this reserve army unit has medical surgical units, operating rooms, labs, and ambulance companies attached to it. It is a fully functional hospital similar to those units mobilized during Desert Storm.

Thirty-five health professionals from her unit were sent to Ecuador to bring necessary expertise and medical supplies that were not available there. They stayed at an Ecuadorean naval base, working with, and being guarded by, Ecuadorean military members who escorted them to two different schools where they worked.

Together with several local public health nurses and doctors, Colonel Wallen and the other reservists went into schools, moved chairs and desks out of the way, and set up shop. People would line up outside the school walls and by the end of each day, the medical personnel would have seen between 600 and 700 patients.

As the people came through, they would be questioned as to the nature of their problem or concern. Then everyone, regardless of their complaint, was given worm medication to rid them of internal parasites. Almost everyone in Ecuador has worms, a problem caused by contaminated water and the lack of available water supplies. Professor Wallen said that in one area, where

200,000 people settled in the hills, there was no running water or sanitation facilities. Backyard outhouses would overflow during the rainy season and further pollute the local water. There is little that can be done to alleviate this because, as Professor Wallen said, "You tell them to boil their water but they don't have fuel to boil it. You tell them to put chlorine in it to get rid of the worms, but they don't have the money for the chlorine. So, they have parasites."

Many of the problems that the medical team saw: malnutrition, poor appetite, and children with stunted growth, were side effects of these parasites. Another type of worm lives under the skin. The medical personnel would see the track marks from these worms and have to lance the skin, put in a tool that looks similar to a pencil, and slowly roll out the worm.

As a result, medication to combat the parasites was one of the most important that the reservists had. Colonel Wallen found that even the Ecuadorean soldiers and doctors were coming in for treatment. Everyone had worms; it was just a way of life.

U.S. personnel, to avoid getting worms themselves, were supplied with bottled water. They brushed their teeth with it and made sure not to drink any water while showering. In addition to their daily malaria pills, prior to going to Ecuador they received a variety of immunizations to protect them from the many health dangers they would encounter there.

Once the patients had been checked in and given the worm medication, they would then go through their public health service and any child needing immunizations would be given them. They would then see either a doctor, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant for a brief physical exam that would address the original complaint that brought the person to the clinic. If it was something that called for the medications the team had brought, they were treated.

Although there was medicine available, many of the natives' conditions required long-term treatment and the humanitarian mission was short in duration. Unfortunately, they did not have enough supplies to give everyone all that would be required to cure them.

For people in need of "heavy-duty" treatments, there were referrals to

local health facilities. The clinic didn't have medications for problems such as high blood pressure or cardiac concerns. "Essentially we were providing humanitarian relief," Professor Wallen explained, "so the philosophy was to help if possible, and otherwise work with the Ecuadorean doctors to get the people with some of the more serious health problems tracked into a local health care facility."

These health care facilities only charge about 30 cents for a visit, plus the cost of medication. However, many of the Ecuadorean people don't even have the money to pay for that.

The local doctors who worked with the U.S. team were in the Ecuadorean military, relieved from their regular clinic jobs to be a part of this important endeavor. The poverty of the region, along with the great need for medical attention was the reason for the humanitarian aid.

Professor Wallen has done a lot of traveling although this was her first humanitarian mission. She always appreciates coming back to the United States. She knew when she went to Ecuador that she would be seeing conditions that she hadn't seen in other countries. This trip has given Professor Wallen a new insight into the accomplishments of others, such as Mother Theresa in Calcutta, who work with the desperately poor in the world.

The comparison between the poverty in Ecuador and what is seen in the United States, sometimes staggers her. "It really makes you stop and look around and see what the priorities are here. Some of the things we say we need - we don't. But also, it's overwhelming to think of how to address the problems of people who have nothing."

The trip has also given her a greater appreciation of the complexities involved in aiding poor countries. For whole groups of people trapped in the cycle of poverty, life expectancy is low. What can be done on the scale needed? How can that cycle be broken and effective long-term help given?

Professor Wallen doesn't pretend to have the answer to these questions beyond the concern of the individual. Although she wishes there was more that could have been done and more

COL. WALLEN,
continued on page 9

SGA weekly notes

by Matthew Rivard

The Student Government Association Council met and had another productive meeting last week. The hot topic of conversation that night was the situation with food service and Chartwells. Concerns were raised from the cost of Chartwells catering to the general quality of the food being served in Holmes Dining Hall. However, the most major concern raised was of the snowstorm policy of Chartwells. All of us remember when school was delayed a little while back that resident students could not get in to Holmes Dining Hall at the normal times for breakfast because the regular crew was not at work yet. The weekend schedule was placed in effect and brunch was served at 11am after the employees got to work. This happened for just a couple inches of snow. Members of SGA Council attended the food service committee meeting at Holmes and voiced these opinions. Potential solutions to some of the problems were brought up, but nothing concrete yet.

If you have a major concern or problem, or just want to find out how business gets done at SGA, please join us for our weekly meeting. Every student is a member of the SGA and is always welcomed to join us and bring their opinions. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Hammond G-Rooms.

SGA

The Student Government Association is currently looking for a few good leaders to get involved in making Fitchburg State College an even better place! If you are interested then stop by the SGA office located in the G-Lobby of the Hammond building.

Professor nurses a second calling

continued from page 8

people reached, she feels good about her part in the humanitarian mission to Ecuador. "It was a Band-Aid - but at least it was a Band-Aid. It was better than doing nothing." In fact, it was the little things that gave her such satisfaction. For instance, young Ecuadorean children would come to the clinic complaining of hearing loss. Often it turned out to be something as simple as a build up of ear wax. She would give them medication or clean out the wax. Then, at least until the wax built up again, they would be able to hear well.

Another example of success on a personal level was when a grandmother came in to the clinic with a baby who was nine hours old. The woman was anxious because her daughter's first baby had died. They were able to relieve that anxiety - the baby got checked and was fine. It was the little things that made all the the difference.

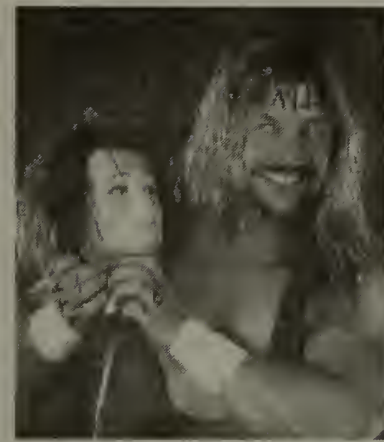
Professor Wallen says that there have been a number of missions in Central and South America by the military over the past couple of years and that number is going to increase. "The focus, the big picture philosophy, seems to be humanitarian relief," she says. "It is valuable for the host nation

that brings us in and it is valuable for us; it's good public relations for the United States, and it's good training for the medical units that are going there. It's really a win/win situation for everybody. And, it's something that allows us to work on a person to person level rather than at the political level."

Does she have plans for the future? Very definitely. She will continue in both her roles and has no plans to get out of the Army any time soon. Her involvement in the Reserve has given her the opportunity to meet people that she never would have in her civilian capacity, and to do things she would not normally have done - like riding in helicopters, rappelling off 70-foot towers, and sleeping in tents during lightning storms. She enjoys doing something interesting that is out of her usual routine. Whether it is helping the poor in Ecuador with the Army, or teaching in Russia through her connections at Fitchburg State, she feels enriched by these opportunities. She will just continue doing her part, learning by experience, and sharing these experiences with family and others. This is her way of breaking the cycle and making a difference.

Leader Wanted!

The student government association is looking for a few good leaders to run for class representatives for next year. If you are interested and want to help make FSC an even better learning/living environment then walk on down to the SGA office and pick up a packet!




WANTED:

Enthusiastic students to watch wrestling on the **BIG SCREEN** Mondays and Thursdays in the **UNDERGROUND PUB** 8-11 p.m.

FREE FOOD
Alcohol served to **21+**
WE I.D.!!!



Proper I.D. required No cover charge 16 oz. Bud Light \$1 all the time	 970 South Street Fitchburg MA 978.345.5051	coming...	
		Thursday, February 24th Kellie and the Captain	
Coming soon... Thursday, March 2nd Bob's Day Off	Friday, February 25th Down in Front	Saturday, February 26th Nothing Yet	

hang ten,
earn six*

summer sessions, hawai'i

* 6 weeks, 6 credits, as low as \$2,800 (based on typical costs of tuition, room & board, books, and airfare)

Term 1: May 22-June 30 • Term 2: July 3-August 11

www.outreach.hawaii.edu • toll-free 1 (800) 862-6628

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Summer Sessions

Soccer doesn't score in U.S.

continued from back cover

Patrick believes that it will take at least two more World Cups before the United States is at the level needed to get to the second round. He sees a need for better coaching, support and organization.

In Europe, soccer players are as popular as Michael Jordan is in the United States. There is less interest here and this causes a domino effect. As more attention is focused on the sport, more people will become interested and get involved. Patrick thinks that televising the games would accomplish this. This would lead to better playing and give the United States more highly skilled players.

Soccer does have its down side. There have been reports of violence among fans and supporters of soccer in countries around the world. At English

soccer matches, fans are strictly segregated from those of the opposing team for safety reasons. Poor performances at important matches can bring out the fury in fans in countries where soccer is the primary sport. Extreme reactions, while they do occur, are not the norm. More common is the rallying support offered to players who represent the people of their country.

Soccer offers an opportunity not available to football - that of competing at an international level. Soccer is arguably the most popular team sport in the world. It is believed by those involved to be worth encouraging and supporting. With increased television coverage, and more information out there about soccer, the United States could compare favorably with other countries around the world.

Extremely questionable plan for football league

continued from back cover

super bowl, and that the XFL, "...fills a void for football fans". But he repeatedly used language that was frustratingly broad, stating that the XFL would not be an "antiseptic" league, and would give fans, "...a football experience unlike any other to date."

Armed with only this brief account of information, we can ask the obvious questions again, "who will play for Vince?" Recent sources have confirmed the involvement of a pair of Lawrences, Taylor and Phillips, in the initial building of the league. It's probably too early to tell what impact this could have, but if these are the type of people that Vince is looking to employ, don't expect a lot of success. His problem is going to be recruiting people who are good enough football players to carry the league. On a recent radio talk show, WCW wrestler Bill Goldberg called the McMahon project, "a joke," and said Vince's problem would be finding quality players that people would want to tune into night after night. If Vince is looking to build a league based more around football than wrestling, guys like this aren't going to cut it. The players will probably come from an array of backgrounds, like college kids who don't end up playing in the NFL, or maybe even ex-professional wrestlers. Maybe some WCW people will wise up and jump ship. And what about the coaches? Who will we see on the sidelines, a small college coach, a retired NFL coach, or

"Classy" Freddie Blassie? Tough to say. The point here though, is that if Vince is looking to make a league based more around football than wrestling, he's going to have to build a league that exhibits quality football week after week. This means getting good players, and right now, the best are in the NFL.

2) What will the rules and games be like? Those of us who watch wrestling religiously will probably admit that Vince has something up his sleeve. He has said that the league will consist of a new set of rule changes that will be designed to enhance the speed and action of the game. We can only guess at what these changes will be. This is where Vince could fall into a trap. If the game is too much like football, then it will just end up being another arena league flop. I'm picturing something like roller derby. The game will be the focus, but individual confrontation between players could command a lot of the attention. Vince was quoted as saying that the league will be a new brand of "smash-mouth football." This will probably mean a lot less penalties. But will it mean that a guy is allowed to jump off the sidelines and clock a running back with a steel chair? It's very possible.

Reports have said that Vince has already lost big bucks (in the millions) promoting the new venture. Luckily for him, the games will be taking place in large venues such as RFK Stadium (Washington, DC) and the Orange Bowl (Miami), so the prospective large

The Point

is looking for writers to contribute to the sports column on a weekly basis. We are looking to add feature articles and conference standings in the coming weeks, as well as any submissions from athletes, coaches or fans.

Upcoming Sporting Events

Playoff Schedule:
Men's basketball

Game 1:
Bridgewater St. at Fitchburg St., 7 p.m.
Game 2:
Framingham St. at Mass. College, 7 p.m.
Game 3:
Westfield St. at Salem St., 7 p.m.
Semifinals - Friday at Worcester State
Game 4:
Game 1 winner vs. Worcester St., 8 p.m.
Game 5:
Game 2 winner vs. game 3 winner, 6 p.m.
Championship
Saturday at Worcester State
Game 6:
Game 4 winner vs. game 5 winner, 5 p.m.

Playoff Schedule:
Women's basketball

Game 1:
Bridgewater St. at Framingham St., 6 p.m.
Game 2:
Fitchburg St. at Worcester St., 6 p.m.
Game 3:
Mass. College at Westfield St., 7 p.m.
Semifinals - Friday at Salem State
Game 4:
Game 1 winner vs. Salem St., 6 p.m.
Game 5:
Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 8 p.m.
Championship
Saturday at Salem State
Game 6:
Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 5 p.m.

Stats

FSC Men's Basketball
Final Standings MASCAC OVERALL

COLLEGE	W-L	W-L
*Worcester State	9-3	18-6
*Salem State	9-3	20-4
Massachusetts College	6-6	11-11
Fitchburg State	5-7	9-15
Bridgewater State	5-7	9-15
Framingham State	4-8	8-14
Westfield State	4-8	9-14

FSC Women's Basketball

Final Standings	OVERALL	MASCAC
COLLEGE	WL	W-L
1. Salem St.	17-7	11-1
2. Westfield St.	16-7	10-2
3. Worcester St.	13-11	7-5
4. Framingham St.	15-8	6-6
5. Bridgewater St.	N/A	6-6
6. Fitchburg St.	6-18	1-11
7. Mass. College	4-18	1-11

The Point

is looking for interested students who would like to learn more about working in newspaper production. We are looking for editor, writers, copy editors, production managers and photographers. We will take any and all levels of experience, including none! Come on down and join the fun!

Basement level of the Hammond building, or call x3647.

World Cup: U.S. comes up empty

by Joanna Jackson

Why does the United States do so poorly in the World Cup tournaments? This is a question that is debated by soccer fans in this country. There are many opinions but one thing is held in common - soccer has real possibilities.

Patrick, a player in a small, area league, has some very strong opinions. He grew up in Nigeria where he started playing soccer in elementary school before moving to the States. Soccer is Nigeria's main sport and school children of all ages eagerly participate. His wide-spread involvement allows Nigeria to compete successfully in World Cup Tournaments and the Olympics.

Soccer was brought to the United States during the late 1800s but it did not become popular for many years thereafter. While soccer is the national sport of many countries around the world, it has only seen an increase in popularity herein the last few decades. Today it is still a sport that takes second place to football, baseball, or basketball. Although there is much interest on campuses around the country, soccer does not enjoy the level of support that football does.

This late interest is shown dramatically in the results of the World Cup tournaments. In 1998, the United States was out of the competition quickly, losing their three-game limit one after another. Patrick attributes this to the lack of preparation and interest in the sport in the United States. Though improvements have been made at the college level, there is still not the support necessary to prepare a team that could one day compete successfully at the international level.

"Soccer is a world sport and very competitive. The best players in the world compete. They represent their country and play for the glory of being able to bring the Cup back to their country," Patrick says. "The United States is behind skill wise, but is getting better at the collegiate level."

WORLD CUP,
continued on page 11

The XFL? A few questions...

by Justin Crawford

Question of the week: Where do sports and sports entertainment meet? For the last week, I've been racking my already overworked brain to try and figure out the answer, and honestly, I can't quite yet. But I'm not alone. Ever since WWF president Vince McMahon announced the formation of the XFL two weeks ago, millions of wrestling and football fans are pondering over the same question, as well as a couple of others. Namely, who will play in the league, and what will the games be more like, football or wrestling?

Don't feel left out because you don't know the answers. None of us do. I don't even think Vince entirely knows at this point. It is no accident though, that these questions arose immediately after the press conference McMahon held to announce the construction of the new league. In typical WWF fashion, the fans are left wondering what will happen next. The noticeable use of vague terms, and the lack of overall information is a big part of Vinnie Mac's public relations plan, the same



type of scheme that has brought such fame and following to the WWF.

For those who didn't get to see excerpts of the press conference, McMahon continually stated that the new league would not seek to compete with the NFL. The league will debut in February of 2001 with teams in Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Orlando,

San Francisco, and Washington D.C., as well as two other teams to be named later. A ten-game regular season will be played with a four-team playoff and a championship held at a neutral site. He pointed out that millions of football fans are left without football after the

XFL,

continued on page 11

Falcon's soaring high

by Justin Crawford

As the regular season winds to a close this week, Fitchburg remains atop the ECAC Northeast standings with a 10-1-2 conference mark, one point ahead of Wentworth College. After dispatching of Suffolk College last Tuesday, 7-4, and Salve Regina on Saturday, 6-4, the Falcons are now riding a nine-game unbeaten streak into their season finale at St. Michael's College Monday night.

Tuesday night at Wallace Civic Center, the Falcons' six first period goals bolstered them to victory over visiting Suffolk. Jeff Duross netted two goals, including one at the 13:33 mark of the second period, which gave him the school's all-time ice hockey points

record with 241. Bob Rumley had a goal and two assists, Jeff Brodeur tallied a goal and an assist, and Alan Fortin added two assists. Goalies Nick Gangemi and Jason Holt split time in the net, combining for 23 saves on 27 shots.

On Saturday night, two quick third-period goals by Salve Regina put them ahead 4-3, but after a Bob Rumley goal tied the game at 4 apiece, two late power play goals by Jeff Duross and Mike Dubey provided the Falcons with the winning margin. Gary Stone assisted on all three third-period goals, and added a second-period goal to the effort. Duross added two assists to go with his goal. Nick Gangemi saved 21 of 25 shots on goal for the Falcons, who outshot Salve Regina 36-25.

The Point would like to congratulate the hockey team on their long standing winning streak and a great season! Congratulations to our Division III champions the FSC Falcons!!!!

Ice Hockey ECAC Men's Northeast Standings (as of Sunday, Feb.20)

	Pts	Conf.	Overall
Division III			
1 Fitchburg	22	10- 1- 2	6- 4- 4
2 Wentworth	21	10- 1- 1	13-10- 1
3 Tufts	19	9- 3- 1	11- 9- 1
4 Lebanon Valley	17	8- 4- 1	17- 5- 1
5 UMass Dartmouth	16	7- 3- 2	13- 8- 2
6 Johnson & Wales	14	7- 6- 0	13-11- 0
7 Salve Regina	13	6- 6- 1	9-12- 1
8 Plymouth Western	12	5- 5- 2	6-11- 2
9 N.E.	12	6- 6- 0	9-11- 2
10 Framingham	8	3- 6- 2	6-14- 3
11 Worcester State		3- 8- 1	9-12- 1
12 Curry	6	3- 9- 0	4-17- 1
13 Suffolk	5	2- 9- 1	3-14- 1
14 Nichols	0	0-12- 0	0-20- 0